The
# Thoreau Society Bulletin

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## Concord Celebrates Marcia Moss

*Lucille Daniel*

*[**Editor's Note:** The following article is reprinted from the* Concord Journal, *10 October 1996. Marcia Moss has served for many years as the Society's archivist.]*

Concordians, true to their Yankee tradition, are not given to overstatement. So when they tell you that library curator Marcia Moss is "a town treasure," you pay attention, especially when you see that opinion repeated in preface after preface, as historical, biographical, and environmental authors express their gratitude for Moss's wide-ranging knowledge and generosity of spirit.

Moss retired from her library position last month after thirty-six years. She spent much of that time gathering, analyzing, organizing, and preserving the town's archival materials as head of Special Collections.

To honor those years and to thank her for guarding their written and pictorial history with such devotion, Concord plans to throw Moss a gala retirement party on Sunday, 20 October, and everyone in town is invited.

The celebration will begin at the Town House at 4 p.m. Local author and historian Paul Brooks will be the keynote speaker and then will turn the microphone over to audience members for an informal sharing of "Marcia stories." Library Director Barbara Powell encourages town residents to come and bring their stories.

Then, at approximately 5 p.m., the party will adjourn to the library on Main Street for a reception.

Attendees will also have the chance to see hot-off-the-presses editions of a *festschrift* prepared by Moss's friends and coworkers. The celebratory book, entitled "Wreath of Joy," will include Marcia's most cherished documents from the collection plus a written history of the archive and Moss's contribution to it by Reed Anthony, a former trustee. Tim Warren, another former trustee, has written an introduction.

Early last month, Moss paused from her work for a rare moment to reflect on her career in Concord, which began on 1 September 1960. She spoke at the measured pace of someone who respects words and in the soft voice of a long-time library denizen.

"I started out at the main desk at the branch," she said. "They wanted to test me."

That year, Moss and her husband and two children moved to Concord from Bridgewater, where she had worked for ten years as director of Special Collections after earning her state certificate as a librarian.

Her husband came to town to start the new high-school library.

"We had to buy an automobile then, as we had never needed one before, because we lived next to the library, and church, schools, and stores were nearby. Bus service to West Bridgewater, where my husband taught, and Boston was frequent," she recalled.

When the Mosses moved to Concord, their son, John, was a senior at the high school, and daughter Marcia Anne was a student at Mount Holyoke College. Today John lives in Brookline with his wife, Ellen Boyce, and their two children. He does freelance work in television. Marcia Anne is head of the Arts and Humanities Library at the University of Texas in Austin. "Her older girl has four children," said the proud great-grandmother.

Marcia said she was always attracted to Concord, in part because of the value the town put on its library and its history. She still feels gratitude for the fine way she was treated from the very beginning.

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Moss, *from page 1*

"Charlotte Johnson was so sweet to me," she said of the former head librarian. "She taught me everything I know. And Helen Mason was wonderful. There were no computers then, of course, but she used to remember if someone owed a fine, and she would mention it the next time the person came in."

After two weeks at the Fowler branch, Marcia was transferred to the main library's front desk, where she worked for a year. She served for a while as reference librarian and then was made head of Special Collections.

"Mrs. Whittemore Brown used to come in for three hours one day a week," said Marcia. "She and Charlotte Johnson worked on organizing what has become the Special Collections."

Since the day Marcia was put in charge of those collections, which include rare materials from the Alcott, Thoreau, Emerson, and Hawthorne families, she has worked to organize the materials so that scholars could make proper use of them, has advocated for their preservation, and has helped organize periodic public displays of portions of the collection.

As she thought back to what she has enjoyed most about her work, she began to speak of her husband, William Henry Moss, who died in 1982 at the age of seventy-one. Henry, who was born in England, was a Shakespeare scholar with a master's degree in English and later became a well-respected educator at the high school as head of the library. Before that, he and Marcia started the library in the West Bridgewater High School "from scratch."

They met when he was a senior at UMass Amherst and she was a special student. He graduated in 1937, and the couple was married in 1939.

"He never did his doctorate," she said, with some regret. "As I watched him develop, I knew he had a gift as a teacher and a counselor. He gave me a vision of what he could have been. Since then, I've been taking on the role of helping other professors, other scholars."

But her appreciation of books and libraries began a long time before, during her earliest years in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she was born, and Savannah, Georgia, where she lived until her mid-teens.

"Both of my parents loved books," she said. Her father was an analytical chemist, who eventually brought the family to Massachusetts, where he taught during Marcia's young adulthood. "My mother was an avid reader," she said.

One of the joys of her work has been meeting, on a regular basis, other people who share her passion for books and history.

"I know people from all over the world," she said. "I remember when Bob Gross was writing *Minute Men and Their World*, he came here for an interview one day. 'I want to see what you have,' he said. Well, after going around to other towns to see what they had, he came back and said, 'You have the best.'"

She recalled another moment when Edwin Way Teale came up from Connecticut in the 1960s while he was working on *Conscious Stillness*, a book he was writing with Ann Zwinger. "Teale came huffing in—he was a big man—and said to me, 'This is the most wonderful library in the world, and I've visited most of them!'"

"I get involved with everybody," she said, adding that Bob Gross asked her to be godmother to one of his children and that she still receives notes from many of the scholars she has helped over the years. "It's just that I like people," she said.

Moss also gets involved with the materials themselves, and she has a special place in her heart for Thoreau. Among her favorite items of Thoreauviana are a crayon portrait of Henry drawn from life by Samuel Rowse and a small booklet of Thoreau's work as a land surveyor, which she edited and which includes a fold-out map of the Concord River, which Thoreau had drawn.

Luckily, Moss will not have to leave her scholars or her Special Collections for good after her retirement. She will continue to work part time and help with special projects.

Library Director Barbara Powell, who considers Moss, "a great mentor," shares the view of scholar Kenneth W. Cameron, who wrote in a June letter to Moss from his home in Connecticut, "Heaven's gifts, I believe, should be utilized until the very end. Please consider another connection. . . and thereby allow the scholarly world with which you have been so long connected to continue benefitting from your experience."

## The Multimedia Subcommittee of the Program Committee

*Scott Beyers*

The Program Committee recently asked me to chair a new multimedia subcommittee whose purpose is to develop an interactive multimedia Thoreau CD-ROM. I would like to hear from Society members who might like to work with me on this subcommittee. If you have one or more of the following skills, please consider volunteering some of your time and energy to this latest effort to bring Thoreau's life and ideas to a wider audience: grant writing, graphic design, digital graphic design using Photoshop or Illustrator, traditional 2-D cel animation, storyboard artistry, programming using Macromedia Director Lingo, interface design, instructional design, scriptwriting, copy editing, photography with access to Photo-CD, fundraising, Thoreau source-list development, literary or historical research, video editing, digital media conversion, rights clearance, digital media production, or Authorware development. We will have work for those using either Macintosh or Windows platforms. An e-mail address, although not required, would help move this project along an accelerated timeline.

Let's make this a truly grass-roots, member-driven project. Please contact me by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail; and let me know what you do, what you could do for this project, and what you might be able to commit to. Also let me know if you have any questions. Scott Beyers, P.O. Box 943, St. Cloud, MN 56302; tel: (320) 252-6965; fax: (320) 252-4606; e-mail: bbeyers@tigger.stcloud.msus.edu; Compuserve: 72773,1340.

There were times when I could not afford to sacrifice the bloom of the present moment to any work, whether of the head or hands.

*Walden*
Henry David Thoreau

# A Tribute to Roger Tory Peterson

*[**Editor's Note:** We grieve to announce that Society member and well-known writer-artist-naturalist Roger Tory Peterson, perhaps most famous for his Peterson Guides, died this past summer. J. Parker Huber, who led a silent walking meditation around Walden Pond on Saturday morning last July during the Society's annual meeting to pay tribute to Walter Harding, will lead another meditative walk at the 1997 annual meeting (7 a.m. Saturday) to pay tribute to Peterson, Harding, Edwin Way Teale, and anyone else that participants may wish to honor in their walk. The following excerpt is from* Walter Harding and Edwin Way Teale *(1983) by J. Parker Huber.]*

After breakfast on July 15, 1967, Walter and Edwin return to Fairhaven Bay. They have a passenger. A tall, lean (having fasted five days), handsome gentleman, who is definitely more fond of birding than paddling. "I don't love birds; I'm obsessed with birds," he admits. A passion his Swedish father and Wendish mother never understood. Nor could he fully explain it. In 1934, at age twenty-six, his *A Field Guide to the Birds* made an indelible mark on ornithology. For almost half a century now he has observed, photographed, and painted birds the world over.

Roger Tory Peterson is Edwin's guest. "For a good many years now, our admiration has been mutual," Edwin believed. "This is one of the great friendships of my life." Since the early 1940s their lives intertwined. Edwin became acquainted with Roger by following him around—to his studio, to the Museum of Natural History, to the Bronx Zoo, to Seaford, Long Island, to watch the European goldfinch, who Roger was the first in the United States to photograph—to understand the master's art. His resultant explanation to *Audubon* readers, Roger still considers the best portrait of his early years.

Both are contributing editors of *Audubon*; Roger was on its staff until 1943, when he like Edwin before him became a freelance naturalist. Roger's *The Bird Watcher's Anthology* (1947) includes Edwin's "Warblers" from *North with the Spring*. Edwin's *Green Treasury* (1952) features Roger's "Saguaro Birds" from *Birds Over America*, which won the John Burroughs Medal for distinguished nature writing in 1950, as had Edwin's *Near Horizons* seven years earlier. Both live in sylvan retreats in eastern Connecticut at which they were each other's first visitor. Nellie [Edwin's wife] vividly remembers June 30, 1959, the day the Petersons' first came, because Roger detected a Louisiana water thrush near Hampton Brook. Roger's review of Edwin's *Wandering Through Winter* made the front page of *The New York Times Book Review*. Elated, Edwin bought six copies, wheelbarrowing them from car to house.

After attending a meeting of the John Burroughs Association in New York, they rode together to Pennsylvania Station. Roger presented a prepublication copy of his *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe*: "To Edwin Way Teale—who has done more to uphold the standards of good nature writing than any living man. . . ." "Several times you have commented on my capacity for growth," Roger earlier reflected about Edwin, "but . . . I can do no better than take a leaf from your book and grow through humility and naturalness as you have done." Roger stood on the platform waving goodbye until the train was out of sight.

Edwin introduces Roger to Walter. Later in his address to the Thoreau Society, "A Crystalline, Jewel-Like Health and Soundness," Roger could not refrain from referring to their river run. At Mrs. Wright's, Roger and Edwin talk until midnight. Then, listening for owls, they prowl Fairhaven's shore. A fox cries, fireflies blink, owls are mute. As customary when away from Trail Wood, Edwin slept little—"too worked up and excited—but happy!"—he explained his insomnia which never caused depression nor diminished energy. Rising before Roger, Edwin shared a Colonial Inn breakfast with Walter before going home at 9:15. Roger had such a grand time that he joined both the Thoreau Society and Thoreau Lyceum.

# Katahdin Centennial-Plus-One Excursion, 26-28 June 1997

Thoreau Society members and others are invited to participate in a trip to Mount Katahdin commemorating Thoreau's 1846 excursion to the highest peak in the Maine Woods, a trip that resulted in his important essay "Ktaadn." Our excursion will begin with a reception at the summer home of Thoreau-and-Katahdin enthusiast Burton ("Bud") Chandler in Ogunquit, Maine, on Thursday evening, 26 June. A lobster-and-clam dinner will follow at a local restaurant. On Friday, participants will drive to Millinocket, pausing en route at the same towns visited by Thoreau during his trip and touring the canoe factory at Old Town. On Saturday, participants will either climb Mount Katahdin or explore other areas of Baxter State Park. A Saturday evening banquet will feature a presentation about the park and the awarding of a plaque from the Thoreau Society to honor Maine's pioneering wilderness stewardship with Baxter State Park.

If you are interested in any or all of these activities, please contact either Tom Harris at the Thoreau Society office (44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773; phone 617-259-9411; fax 617-259-1470; e-mail ttsharris@aol.com) or Burton Chandler (Seder & Chandler Attorneys, 339 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608; phone 508-757-7721; fax 508-798-1863). Participants must provide their own transportation and pay for food and lodging. Motels will be reserved in Ogunquit and Millinocket, and a group dinner will be arranged at each of these locations. The cost is simply that of lodging and the group meals, approximately $200 for three nights and two substantial meals. Commemorative t-shirts will be available for all participants.

While it will not be necessary to come for the entire time and take part in all the

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# Update: The Thoreau Institute

After a summer of construction, the Thoreau Institute's new archive, library, and media-center building is nearing completion. This collaborative project of the Thoreau Society and the Walden Woods Project will serve to educate teachers and students about the life, works, and philosophy of Henry D. Thoreau. In addition to providing access to the Thoreau Society's collections, by far the most comprehensive in the world, the Institute will serve as an education center for conservationists in all walks of life. Complementing the Thoreau Society's sponsorship of fifty-plus years of literary and historical research on Thoreau, the Walden Woods Project brings to the Institute a highly effective and localized expertise in preserving land. The building phase of the project will be completed in mid-December of this year. Once construction has been completed, the Thoreau Society will begin moving its collections into the new state-of-the-art archive facility. The Institute will open to the public in spring 1997.

Careful attention has been paid to the aesthetics of the new building and the building's effect on the environment. Although very spacious (about 5,000 sq. ft.), the building is quite a bit smaller than the adjoining ninety-year-old Tudor estate (about 12,000 sq. ft.), which will serve as a residence and seminar area for teachers, scholars, and students. Relatively little land was disturbed by the new building, which sits on what was once part of a courtyard and parking lot. Floorboards are being milled from the few trees removed from the site, and rock from the ledge was used in the stone walls of the media center, which is the lower level of the two-story structure. Special care is being taken to use energy efficient lighting, heating, and cooling inside the buildings. Heating and cooling equipment will be located in a pre-existing garage, which has been renovated to eliminate noise pollution.

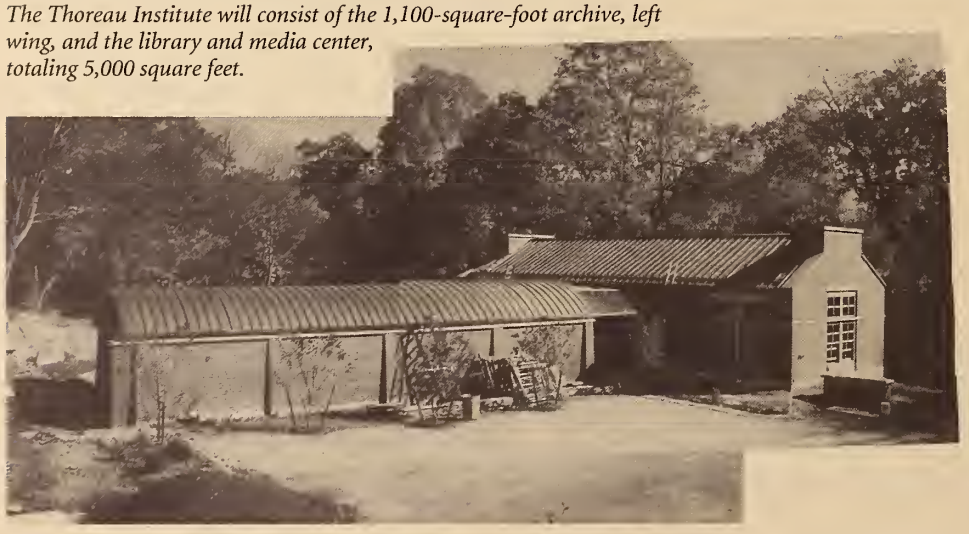
The 1,100-square-foot archive will provide safe storage for the Society's collections in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment. By using movable shelving, we will not only be able to accommodate the Society's large collection but will have spare space for future acquisitions. Work areas will be set up both within and just outside the archive for the Institute staff, who will catalogue all materials coming into the Institute. The archivist's office will link the archive with the reading room, which will provide a secure and accommodating atmosphere for research. Three large windows bring views of Walden Woods into the reading room, thereby enabling researchers to work in as natural a setting as possible, a primary goal of both the Thoreau Society and the Walden Woods Project. A media center will be located just below the reading room and will feature full-time Internet access, as well as house the Society's database.

Keeping in mind the need to bring together the land and the literature, a contemplative garden has been designed to ease visitors' transition from the Institute to the surrounding Walden Woods. Trail heads at the end of the garden will direct saunterers towards such places as the beech grove and beech spring mentioned in *Walden*, the ice channel that stretches back toward Sandy (Flint's) Pond, and, of course, to Walden Pond.

In addition to the construction of the archive, reading room, and media center, there have been several renovations to the property itself. A new water line, septic system, and landscaping were necessary to meet the needs of the Institute and to protect surrounding conservation lands. For instance, the material used to cover the parking area will allow seepage, which will reduce the amount of runoff during rainstorms.

The Thoreau Society and the Walden Woods Project are excited that this facility is nearing completion, and we look forward to opening the Institute to all who have an interest in Thoreau. It is our hope and belief that this collection will serve as the core of an international effort to stimulate interest in and foster education about the life, works, and philosophy of Henry D. Thoreau. While we are excited about the three major collections which have been donated by the families of Raymond Adams, Walter Harding, and Roland Robbins, we also recognize the responsibility placed upon us to preserve and make accessible these collections—a responsibility with costs attached. The Thoreau Institute has received the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities through a $575,000 Challenge Grant. Because the Society has always relied on the financial support of its members, we now ask for your support in helping to raise funds for educational programs and curriculum development. Donations should be made to The Thoreau Society. Donations can also be made to The Thoreau Society for the Walter Harding Memorial Fund, which was set up for the acquisition and preservation of the Society's collection. Our fund-raising goals are designed for simple sustainability and self-sufficiency. This money will be used to maintain and to make accessible the most comprehensive collection of Thoreau-related material in the world.

*The Thoreau Institute will consist of the 1,100-square-foot archive, left wing, and the library and media center, totaling 5,000 square feet.*



# Notes from Thoreau Country

*Helen Bowdoin*

*[**Editor's Note:** Because so many Society members are interested in developments relating to sites in Thoreau country (Walden Pond, Walden Woods, Estabrook Woods, the birthplace, and so on), we have asked Board member Helen Bowdoin to arrange to have a column written about Thoreau sites. These columns, "Notes from Thoreau Country," written by Bowdoin and others who are active and therefore knowing in matters relating to Thoreau sites, will appear on a regular basis in future bulletins. Please let us know if you would like news in a future bulletin about a particular site or about an issue relating to a particular site.]*

The Concord farm where Thoreau was born is on the market and at risk of becoming a housing development. Permanent protection of the historic house and 18 acres of land, which belonged to Thoreau's maternal grandmother and is located on Virginia Road, will require a combination of state, town, and foundation funding. The development threat has gained attention from NPR, the Associated Press, the *Boston Globe*, the *Baltimore Sun*, and others. Society member Peggy Brace's post-card drive has resulted in a lot of mail for Governor Weld—over 300 post-cards urging that he approve state funding to help protect the site.

Estabrook Woods is in jeopardy! While the fate of the Harvard-owned core remains in doubt, Middlesex School is pressing ahead with plans to expand its campus into an especially historic and fragile area of Estabrook, the 2,100-acre forest beloved by Emerson and Thoreau. School officials appear unfazed that $3 million in public and private funds have been poured into protection of the very tract they seek to damage. Strong reservations to the project have been voiced by federal, state, town, and community organizations. Middlesex Graduates for Estabrook has requested a moratorium on construction and a reassessment of alternative expansion sites. An independent site analysis concludes that viable alternatives exist.

Eroded banks and trails at Walden Pond will be restored. Work begins this fall to restore the severely eroded south and north banks and pathways at the pond. Using bioengineering technology, the state will plant thousands of cuttings of vegetation native to Walden along the banks through a layer of coconut-fiber matting. The $1 million project raises once again the question of use, overuse, or abuse of the pond—a word choice that depends on one's point of view. With roughly 500,000 people visiting Walden Pond every year, many claim that Walden is "being loved to death." Will the plantings succeed given these high levels of usage, or should the state consider a reduction in visitor numbers and develop alternative swimming areas?

Readers can influence the outcome of these issues by making their views known. The Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance (TCCA) is coordinating protection of the Thoreau Birthplace and the Middlesex threat to Estabrook. Write to TCCA, P.O. Box 641, Lincoln, MA 01773, or call (508) 369-3565. For Walden, write to Parks Commissioner Peter Webber, 100 Cambridge Street, 19th Floor, Boston, MA 02202.

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Katahdin, *from page 3*

activities, we want to have enough Thoreauvians at the park on Saturday and at the banquet that night to make this a significant occasion for both the Thoreau Society and the official representatives of Baxter State Park and the State of Maine. Last summer's proposed trip had to be canceled because of insufficient participation. We hope that this year's excursion, with more advance notice, will receive much better support. Already planning to join the 1997 excursion are a representative of *The New Yorker Magazine* and Stephanie Matteson, author of *Murder on High*, a mystery set on Katahdin with many references to Thoreau. Several major New England newspapers will cover our attempt to pay homage to Thoreau, to Mount Katahdin, and to the wilderness conservation ethic embodied in Baxter State Park.

> Why is it that thought flows with so deep and sparkling a current when the sound of distant music strikes the ear.
>
> Henry David Thoreau
> Journal, 18 November 1837

# President's Column

In this column I'll be addressing concerns of the members and issues that are of general interest. As I said in a letter printed in the 1 August issue of the *Concord Journal*, one of the strengths of the Thoreau Society is the deep interest and involvement many of its members demonstrate in its activities.

I've heard from several members on subjects that I'll mention here.

Maynard Gertler and Sydney Rosen have written on the issue of the members' right to vote, and I want to assure them and you all that the Board is taking this matter very seriously. The Board will meet in January, and we will bring to that meeting information we are gathering about other membership organizations that hold property and have elections. In the spring *Bulletin*, I'll report the results of our discussions.

Bernhard Kuhn wrote to suggest that we consider what we might do to help those living outside of the United States who wish to be members of the Society but who cannot afford to join because of unfavorable exchange rates. One solution would be to identify a group of current members who would be willing and able to become sponsors for these individuals. Let me know what you think of this idea: Tom Harris could keep on file the names of those who volunteer to be sponsors, and match them with would-be members in need.

Russell Gregory has raised some interesting questions about the economy of the current editorial work on Thoreau, which I'll address in a later column, and has also shared the Thoreauvian observation that in early October the Sugar Maples (*Acer saccharum*) in central Michigan were "on the verge of splendor."

On 20 October, at the Town House in Concord, Marcia Moss was honored on the occasion of her retirement after thirty-five years of service at the Concord Free Public Library. Barbara Powell, the Director of the Library, has been compiling letters from Marcia's many fans; if you are in that group and wish to be included in this book of tributes, please write to Marcia and send the letter to Barbara at the Library, 129 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742. Those who visit will probably find Marcia ensconced in her favorite spot, at the desk in the Thoreau Alcove on the

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# Notes and Queries

Tom Blanding taught another of his eight-week seminars this fall, this one on *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers.* The seminar took place at the Emerson Umbrella in Concord.

At the Concord Museum on Friday, 11 October, at 7:30 p.m., Society Board member Daniel Shealy lectured on "'Thoreau's Flute': The Relationship of Louisa May Alcott and Henry David Thoreau." And on 6 November Society Board member Wesley T. Mott lectured at the Concord Museum on "Emerson as American Icon." These are the second and third lectures in a series of lectures sponsored by the Thoreau Society and the Concord Museum. Society president Beth Witherell opened the series on 18 September with a look at Thoreau's late natural history writings. Board member Robert Galvin attended Witherell's lecture and reports that it was extremely well received by a large and attentive audience. All lectures in this series are free and open to the public. The series will continue on 19 January at 4:00 p.m. with a lecture by Joel Myerson on "Thoreau, Emerson, and Books" and on 28 February at 7:30 p.m. with Ron Hoag on "Seeing is Believing: Transcendental Vision in Thoreau's Natural History Essays."

The Concord Museum conducted a two-hour walking tour entitled, "Exploring Concord Inside and Out: The Town of Emerson and Thoreau," on Sunday, 20 October, from 1-3 p.m.

Jeffrey Hyatt opened his monodrama *Walden Pawned* on 21 September at the Performing Arts Center in Concord. Mr. Hyatt received a standing ovation from the audience. Over 120 people were in attendance.

Robert Lucas (P.O. Box 63, Blandford, MA 01008) will issue a catalog of more than one hundred items relating to Thoreau and will send a free copy to Society members with U.S. addresses. Members outside the U.S. should send $3 for overseas postage.

David Patch, the drama instructor at St. Mark's High School in Wilmington, Delaware, informs us that he plans to direct a production of the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee play *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail.* As a supplement to the production, he is interested in sponsoring a chat room, an idea which came to him after reading an article in the *New York Times* on how great works of literature are much discussed on the Internet. Patch also points out that an off-Broadway production dealing with Emily Dickinson included a character who discovers Dickinson's work and surfs the Net in search of others interested in the poet and her work. Patch would like to hear from anyone with an e-mail account "who has made time for Thoreau" specifying why he or she has made time for Thoreau and what Thoreau does for him or her. A friend of Patch's, Andy Tarburton (ATarburton@aol.com), will accept responses and pass them on to Patch.

The Thoreau Society sponsors panels at two annual scholarly meetings, the American Literature Association (held in late May) and the Modern Language Association (held 27-30 December). We invite proposals for papers or panels for future conventions from Society members on any aspect of Thoreau's life and art. Members interested in having their proposals considered for the American Literature Association panels should write Joel Myerson, English, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 (e-mail: myerson-joel@sc.edu); those interested in the Modern Language Association panels should write Michael Meyer, English, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06268. (People presenting at the Modern Language Association must be members of the MLA.) As always, anyone interested in participating in the program of the Society's annual meeting in Concord should write the current President of the Society. Note: In 1997, the ALA meeting will be in Baltimore and the MLA will meet in Toronto.

The National Portrait Gallery, in collaboration with the Washington Stage Guild, presented the Lawrence and Lee play *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* in its second-floor lounge on 5 August 1996 at 7 p.m. Bill Largess directed the production and acted as Deacon Bell, and Jewell Robinson was the producer and narrator. Other actors included Steven Dawn as Thoreau, Conrad Feininger as Emerson, Terence Aselford as Sam Staples, Helen Hedman as Lydian, John Lescault as John, Jr., Carol Monda as Ellen, and Jean Schertler as Mrs. Thoreau.

If you have a Thoreau reading club in your area, please let us know. Many members have asked if such clubs exist in their areas, and we would like to list them in future *Bulletins.*

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President, *from page 5*

main level of the Library. They will also find staff members in Special Collections carrying on Marcia's tradition of providing excellent service.

In Marcia's honor, the Library mounted an exhibit of selected treasures from Special Collections, including Hosmer and Gleason photographs, deeds and maps reflecting the early history of the town, and Thoreau, Emerson, and Hawthorne manuscripts—Thoreau is represented by his 1860 river survey. The catalog of this exhibit, entitled *A Wreath of Joy,* is available from the Library for $25 plus $3 for postage. Edited by Sally Chapin and with a preface by Timothy Matlack Warren and an introduction by Reed Anthony, the catalog includes a photo of each of the twenty-eight items on display; any profits from the sale of the catalogs will go to Special Collections.

And finally, "beware of enterprises that require new raincoats!" Did you attend the Annual Meeting in Concord in July? Did you enjoy Marcia Moss's excellent tour of the Thoreau treasures at the Concord Free Public Library on Saturday afternoon? Did you take Marcia's raincoat home with you and leave her yours? Marcia started the weekend with a tan, double-breasted, belted, London Fog raincoat, in a petite size. She ended up with a tan, double-breasted, belted, J. H. Collectible one that is too long and too large (size 8) for her. If your raincoat seemed to have shrunk when you put it on after the meeting, maybe it's actually Marcia's. In that case, she has yours: please call her at (508) 371-6420.

# Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography

Thomas S. Harris


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This bibliography was compiled with contributions from M. Berger, T. Blanding, B. Ganley, M. Ferguson, R. Pesha, M. Roach, D. Robinson, and R. Winslow, III.

If I have missed any books, articles, or other relevant material, please let me know. Send any additions or corrections to Thomas S. Harris, The Thoreau Society, 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773-3004 (e-mail: TTSHarris@aol.com). Please, whenever possible, include a copy of the book, article, or other material. It will be included in the Thoreau Society's collection at the Thoreau Institute.

# A Review of Harding's Annotated *Walden*

*Joel Myerson*

*Walden: An Annotated Edition.* Foreword and notes by Walter Harding. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1995. xi, 338 pp. $30.00

The most valuable edition of *Walden* I own is not the one of 1854 but, rather, Harding's *The Variorum Walden* (New York: Twayne, 1962; reprinted with revisions, New York: Washington Square Press, 1963). When I began teaching at the University of South Carolina in 1971, Yankeeland was the great black area on the map north of the Mason-Dixon line, and I was in sore need of assistance whenever I taught *Walden.* Harding's book was a godsend because he explained obscure words and phrases; identified historical events and figures; pointed out literary allusions; connected major points in the text with the critical commentary on them; and, in general, just made the book easier to understand. Harding's new, annotated edition of *Walden* does the same things but better.

After a brief foreword and discussion about what the book does, *Walden* is attractively laid out with text and notes on the same pages (a much better plan than in the original, where the reader had to constantly flip to the end of the book to find the notes). Each page contains up to thirty-four lines of text, with notes adjacent to the text at the edge of the page, keyed to boldface numbers next the line in which the text to be annotated appears. (There are also reproductions of drawings from Thoreau's journal on many pages.) The result is a very pleasing and readable design, and one that is easy to follow. Appendices include a delightful discussion of critical responses to the hound, bay horse, and turtle-dove passage; a reproduction of Thoreau's map of Walden Pond from the first edition; and a list of works cited. Houghton Mifflin should be applauded for the fine presentation given this book: its three-piece binding has a black cloth spine with green paper-covered boards, all blindstamped with leaf designs, and pasted paper labels on the front and back covers; and the oversized format (the pages measure 7+" x 9 1/4") is very user-friendly. All that's missing for full utility is the Princeton edition text and an index.

*continued on page 8*

*Walden* Review, *from page 7*

Do you need to buy this edition of *Walden* if you still have the earlier one? You bet you do. The 863 annotations of thirty-some years ago have grown to 1,279 (an increase of nearly 50%), and many of them deal with critical responses to *Walden* published during that period. As with all of Walter Harding's writings on Thoreau, the annotations here act to guide us by supplying historical information and to make suggestions for interpretation by bringing forth critical responses; he acts to wake us up, to engender—not cut off—discussion about this great work. If any book is worthy of the term "the culmination of a lifetime of scholarship," this is it. I'm sure that Walter is sitting somewhere up in heaven right now, delighted that his words are on the same pages as Henry's, but in a smaller size type; unlike many critics today, Walter did, after all, have a true sense of proportion.


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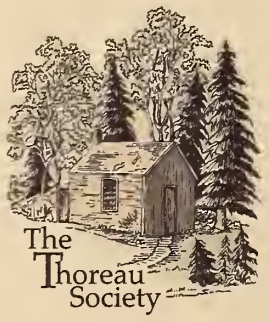



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